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United States Attorney's Office
District of Oregon

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Tigard Man Found Guilty of Federal Sex Trafficking Offense After Fleeing to Thailand

PORTLAND, Ore. — A federal jury has found a Tigard man guilty of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion after he attempted to profit from the commercial sexual exploitation of his girlfriend and later fled to Thailand to avoid prosecution, U.S. Attorney Scott E. Bradford announced today.

Selva Delano Mudaliar, 40, was found guilty of **sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion** following a federal jury trial.

According to evidence presented at trial, in December 2021, Mudaliar transported the victim from Portland, Oregon, to a hotel in Vancouver, Washington, where he attempted to arrange for her to engage in commercial sex acts with a customer in exchange for money. Prosecutors proved that Mudaliar fraudulently induced the victim to accompany him and used force, threats, and coercion in connection with the sex trafficking scheme.

Trial evidence showed that after meeting a customer at a Portland nightclub, Mudaliar became interested in the customer after observing that he had substantial funds available in his bank account. Mudaliar directed the victim to introduce herself to the customer and later drove both individuals to a hotel in Vancouver, Washington. Once there, Mudaliar negotiated a deal under which the customer would pay $1,500 in exchange for sexual access to the victim.

When the arrangement failed, Mudaliar became enraged and assaulted the victim. Evidence at trial established that Mudaliar repeatedly struck the victim in the face and head and strangled her until she lost consciousness. The victim suffered severe injuries that required emergency medical treatment and transfer to a Level 1 trauma center.

Following the assault, the Washington County District Attorney's Office charged Mudaliar with multiple state offenses. Shortly before his scheduled state court trial in February 2024, Mudaliar fled the United States and traveled to Thailand. The FBI assisted in locating Mudaliar overseas, and he was arrested by Thai authorities. Mudaliar later consented to extradition and was returned to the United States to face the Washington County charges and additional federal charges. The charges in state court remain pending.

"Sex trafficking is a violent crime that exploits vulnerable victims for financial gain," said **Scott E. Bradford, U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon**. "The defendant attempted to sell a woman for sex and then brutally assaulted her when his scheme failed. Today's verdict holds him

accountable for that conduct and demonstrates our commitment to prosecuting those who use force, fraud, and coercion to exploit others."

Mudaliar faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Sentencing is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2027.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Tigard Police Department.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mira R. Chernick and William M. McLaren prosecuted the case.

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